



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests
Huron Shores Ranger District
5761 North Skeel Ave.
Oscoda, MI 48750

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File Code: 1950

Date: October 25, 2010

Dear Forest Neighbor;

This letter is to inform you that on October 25, 2010, I signed a written decision to implement the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Project. The decision was made to implement Alternative 3 which includes portions of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. For specifics of treatment activities, please refer to the enclosed Decision Notice for the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Environmental Assessment (EA).

The substantially complete EA was released for initial scoping *and* 30-day public comment concurrently on August 25th, 2010. Two comments were received. One of the comments generated an issue the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) felt needed to be addressed. Based on new biological information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Forest Service felt that further consideration needed to be given to leaving the 76 acres of unburned Kirtland's warbler (KW) habitat untreated.

As a result, a new action alternative (Alternative 3—The Modified Proposed Action) was developed that incorporated portions of Alternative 1 (No Action) and Alternative 2 (The Proposed Action). Alternative 3, the alternative chosen for implementation of this project, only proposes treatment on the 260 acres of the Kobs Block that was burned in the Exhaust Fire leaving the 76 acres of unburned KW habitat intact.

Enclosed is a supplemental report that discusses Alternative 3 along with several other modifications made to the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Environmental Assessment. The supplemental report has been included to clarify changes made to the EA.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215 by those who supplied comments or otherwise expressed interest in this proposal before the close of the 30-day comment period. The appeal must be filed in writing with the Responsible Official. Please refer to the *Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities* section in the attached Decision Notice for specifics on how to pursue and appeal.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Environmental Assessment, please contact Paul Thompson at (989) 739-0728 ext. 3028, or write to; USDA Forest Service, Huron Shores Ranger Station, 5761 N. Skeel Ave., Oscoda, MI 48750.

Sincerely,

/s/ Susan M. Kocis

Susan M. Kocis
District Ranger

*Enclosures

Decision Notice for the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Environmental Assessment
Updates to the Exhaust Fire Kirtland's Warbler Environmental Assessment

